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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Fickle on the fair

PNE attendance dropped to its lowest level in a decade this year, with organizers blaming rain and power outages for the poor showing PAGE 4

War and pleas

Obama wins support for a U.S.-led strike against Syria from Republican Speaker of the House, but some lawmakers say more information is still needed PAGE 7

Giant takes Wings

Vancouver Giant forward Marek Tvrdon is heading to the Motor City for the Red Wings' annual NHL prospects tourney PAGE 24

MEXICO CITY? SÍ, SÍ!

LESS CRIME, LESS GRIME AND A BURGEONING FOOD SCENE MAKE FOR AN EXCITING GETAWAY THAT BALANCES TRADITIONS OLD AND NEW PAGE 14

Minnesota Wild defenceman Clayton Stoner poses with grizzly paws from a bear shot on B.C.'s mid-coast in May. CONTRIBUTED

B.C. NHLer at heart of grizzly-bear furor

In the crosshairs. Province refuses to recognize First Nations hunting ban

LUKE BROCKI
vancouver@metronews.ca

Trophy hunting of grizzly bears on B.C.'s central coast continues while First Nations struggle to enforce a year-old tribal law barring hunters from killing the animals for sport.

A source provided Metro with photos of a hunter showing off the severed head and paws of a grizzly bear after a spring hunting trip in May in the Kwatna River estuary between Bella Bella and Bella Coola.

"They are photos that were taken by one of my field technicians this spring," said Jessie Housty, an elected Heiltsuk tribal councillor and member of the Coastal First Nations Bear Working Group, who have been patrolling and erecting signs in areas of high hunting activity. "The man in the photo identified himself to our field technicians as being Clayton Stoner."

A Minnesota Wild spokesman confirmed Tuesday that the man in the photo is Stoner, a 28-year-old defenceman originally from Port McNeill.

"I grew up hunting and fishing in British Columbia and continue to enjoy spending time with my family outdoors," Stoner said in an email, adding that he received the licence from the province and shot the bear legally with his father, uncle and a friend.

"I love to hunt and fish and will continue to do so with my family and friends in British Columbia."

Stoner is not the first NHL player to draw criticism over his love of hunting. Last year, Canucks winger David Booth tweeted a photo of a black bear he had killed with a bow on a hunting trip in Alberta, saying: "Just killed a Chara sized bruin! 7ft black bear - 21in skull."

With the fall bear-hunting season opening across B.C. — the activity is legal and regulated by the province — Housty said it remains difficult to enforce the tribal hunting ban, since provincial officials don't recognize its authority.

"We consider bears to be our close relatives and have many stories and ceremonies that reinforce that connection. It's incredibly offensive to us that anyone would kill for sport," she said.

Hunting for sport is also a threat to sustainable economic opportunities, including ecotourism, she said. "Bears are worth far more alive than they are dead."

The province responds

Thousands of bears roam B.C., ministry says

A spokesman for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations said there are at least 15,000 grizzlies in B.C. and that roughly 58 per cent of traditional Coastal First Nations territory is closed to the grizzly hunt.

Officials have released 3,786 limited authorizations allowing hunters to shoot and kill bears. The ministry estimates some 300 grizzlies are harvested in the province every year. LUKE BROCKI/FOR METRO

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Close call.
Police nab alleged drunk driver by school

Vancouver police say they pulled over an impaired driver mere blocks from an elementary school as parents were shuttling their children to the first day of classes Tuesday morning.

Traffic officers caught the allegedly impaired driver near Renfrew Elementary School minutes before police held a joint news conference on traffic safety with the school board and government officials at East 22nd Avenue and Rupert Street, Const. Brian Montague said.

"On top of the fact that we're looking for people that are speeding and distracted, at 8 a.m. we still have to worry about impaired drivers," Montague said, adding the announcement was to remind drivers to be aware of students.

The reminder is all the more grim after a 14-year-old Toronto girl was fatally struck by a truck on her way to middle school on Tuesday.

Local police will increase patrols in school zones for the next two weeks to enforce slower speeds now that school is in session.

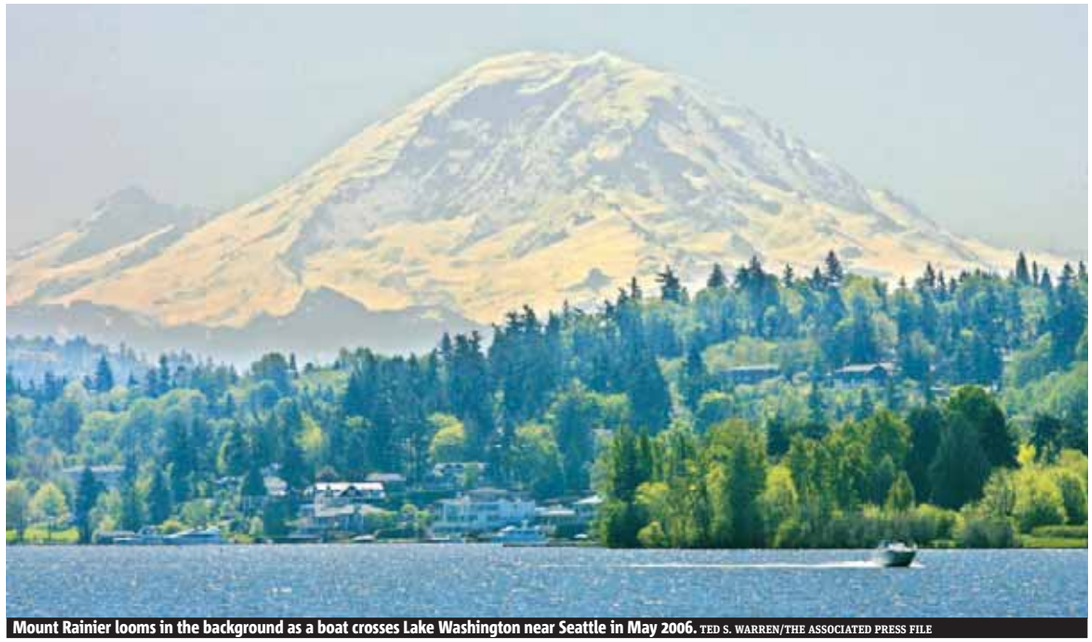
"We have a very low tolerance for drivers that are involved in behaviour that is putting kids at risk," Montague said.

Most school zones have a speed limit of 30 km/h between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets for speeding start at $196. Texting or using a cell phone while driving nets a $167 fine.

Car crashes are the top cause of preventable death among B.C. youth aged five to 18, according to police.

An average of 10 Lower Mainland children are killed and 3,250 injured in 9,060 crashes each year.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO



Mount Rainier looms in the background as a boat crosses Lake Washington near Seattle in May 2006. TED S. WARREN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Surrey climber recovering in hospital after fall

Mount Rainier.
Climbers fell into a crevasse on Emmons Glacier at about the 3,500-metre level of 4,400-metre volcano

Dozens of search-and-rescue members on Washington state's Mount Rainier were deployed to rescue three Canadian climbers who fell into a crevasse.

Two of the three men who tumbled — one from Surrey and the other from Edmonton — are in hospital in serious condition.

The climbers fell early Sunday morning into a crevasse on Emmons Glacier at about the 3,500-metre level of the 4,400-metre active volcano, said a news release from the U.S. National Park Service.

The men were on their way to the summit of the mountain.

The service said the incident was reported by another climbing team that happened to see the three fallen men at about 3:50 a.m. Sunday.

A crew of about 36 personnel worked on the rescue.

A helicopter pilot managed to drop a four-person rescue team to within about 30 metres of the accident scene.

Attempts

10,000

More than 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier every year, but fewer than half actually reach the summit

The service said the injured men were extracted by a newly established short-haul helicopter system.

Susan Gregg of the Harborview Medical Center in Seattle said two of the men, aged 31, were transported there by helicopter on Sunday.

"Both are ... in the intensive-care unit, but they are serious and improving and both conscious," she said in an interview.

The third man, whose injuries were less severe, was taken to another hospital.

The climbers' names have not been released.

More than 10,000 people attempt to climb Mount Rainier every year, but fewer than half that number actually reach the summit, according to statistics from the Park Service.

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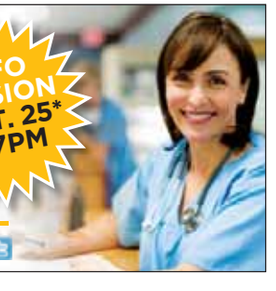

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How low can it go? Price of Canada's 'most expensive' house plummets to $12.9M

Owners of the West Vancouver house once listed as Canada's most expensive have dropped their asking price to $12.9 million from $37.9 million.

They also appear to have switched real-estate agents in their bid to sell the fixer-upper at 3810 Marine Dr.

The aging house on the half-acre of prime oceanfront real estate remains on the market seven months after the exorbitant price tag first attracted media attention. The price subsequently dropped to $19.9 million before taking the latest plunge, according to cached copies of agent Lionel Lorence's website.

In February, the previous realtors told Metro the real value would lie in subdividing the lot.

The home's former listing, which no longer appears on agent Laura McLaren's website, included photos of opulent renderings of what could be done with the property.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Too close to the case

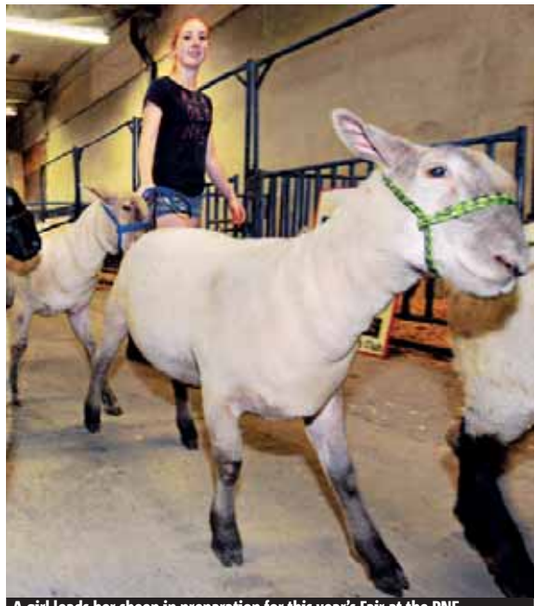
Judge recuses herself from park-board lawsuit

A legal battle between Vancouver's park board and six of the city's 24 community centres has been delayed by two weeks to find a judge who's not affected by the situation.

A judge recused herself Tuesday because, as a Vancouver resident and community centre user, she's too close to the case.

The six centres want an interim injunction against the park board to stop use of the OneCard, a "universal" pass that more than 40,000 people signed up for this summer. EMILY JACKSON /METRO

PNE attendance dips to lowest level in 10 years



A girl leads her sheep in preparation for this year's Fair at the PNE.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Hit by bad weather. But the fair has a five-year plan to 'energize' itself

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Lower ticket prices, novel artery-clogging food and high profile concerts weren't enough to lure more people through the gates at the Pacific National Exhibition.

With 712,049 guests, 2013 fair-attendance numbers shrank to the lowest level in a decade, even though organizers dropped entry and parking fees by 20 per cent.

That's about 50,000 fewer visitors than last year and 247,000 less than 2006, the strongest season in the past 10 years.

The PNE blames the low turnout for the 103rd annual fair on two power outages and rain on key weekend days. Organizers also noted the fair closed for the first two Mondays for the first time to concentrate programming on the busier days.

"This was the first year of a five-year plan to energize The Fair at the PNE," president and CEO Michael McDaniel said in a statement. "Overall we were very pleased with the experience our guests received."

In July, McDaniel told Metro the PNE had to cut costs due to the recession and lower prices to keep families coming back.

Along with the typical nostalgia-inspiring midway games and roller coasters, this year's fair featured crocodile burgers, a Genghis Khan exhibition and musical acts including the Beach Boys, Martina McBride and Great Big Sea.

Planning is underway for the 2014 fair. It will run Aug. 16 to Sept. 1, excluding the first two Mondays.

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Oui! B.C. students taking up French immersion

Popularity. French-immersion enrolment in B.C.'s public-education system has grown

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

A growing number of B.C. students will hit les livres instead of the books at school this fall.

French-immersion enrolment in B.C.'s public education system has grown for a record 15 consecutive years, according to an August 2013 study by the Canadian Parents for French B.C. & Yukon.

"We believe French programs are popular because they are widely recognized by parents as providing young students with the tools and experiences that will enrich their lives and help them prepare for the future," CPF's Debra Pool said in a statement.

The jump in French enrolment comes as the overall school population declines, according to government statistics.

In the past decade, the number of étudients increased by more than 14,000 to 47,857 as the total number of students fell by more than 50,000 to 564,530. On top of that, more than 187,000 students are learning basic skills through Core French programs.

On the web

For more local news go to metronews.ca

French-immersion students at Vancouver's Lord Tennyson Elementary School in April 2013. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

Nanaimo

Teacher suspended for inappropriate behaviour

A teacher in Nanaimo begins a 30-day suspension today for inappropriate relationships with students, including camping with five female students without telling their parents.

The commissioner under the Teachers Act says in a written agreement that Matthew Lettington, who taught visual arts at Wellington Secondary, also went to movies with students.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aftershocks

Earthquake strikes off British Columbia's coast

There was some shaking going on off British Columbia's coast Tuesday, but no one reported feeling the earthquake and at least four subsequent aftershocks.

The first quake, with a magnitude 6.2, was centred about 200 kilometres off Bella Bella, on B.C.'s northern coast, and occurred at 1:19 p.m. Several more aftershocks measuring between 4.5 and 4.9 were recorded.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fraser Institute. B.C. think tank says 'right-to-work' labour laws help growth

Allowing workers to opt out of union membership would lead to more economic growth in the province, according to the latest report by the Fraser Institute, a centre-right public-policy think tank.

The report, titled The Implications of U.S. Worker Choice Laws for British Columbia and Ontario, calls on the provincial government to enact "right-to-work" laws similar to those in place in 24 American states, which allow workers to opt out of paying union dues.

"Evidence from the United States shows that states with worker-choice laws experience a 1.8 per cent increase in GDP as well as a 1 per cent increase in employment," Jason Clemens, co-author of the study, said in an emailed statement, adding that the adoption of such laws in B.C. could create some 19,000 jobs while increasing manufacturing output by $200 million.

"Worker-choice laws don't prevent unionization but they give workers a choice. And when workers have a choice, they choose unions less often," said Clemens.

Union dues have been mandatory under Canadian labour law since 1946, when the Supreme Court of Canada introduced the provisions to settle a 99-day strike by workers at a Ford Motor Company plant in Windsor, Ont.

"What's fair is, if a majority of people decide they want a union in a plant, then everybody should share in the cost of that because everybody shares in the benefits," said Jim Sinclair, president of the B.C. Federation of Labour, an umbrella group of 54 private and public-sector unions in the province.

Sinclair said right-to-work laws only serve to weaken the labour movement and lower wages and working conditions.

"It's a ludicrous idea, except a right-wing fringe group keeps pushing it," he said. LUKE BROCKI/FOR METRO

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Boy sees no charges in child killing

Lee Bonneau, 6, was found dead in a wooded area of a Saskatchewan reserve last month. COURTESY RCMP

Saskatchewan. RCMP say boy would have seen murder charge if he was 12 or older

ALYSSA MCDONALD
Metro in Regina

Lee Bonneau should have begun Grade 2 on Tuesday — but instead, it was a day when information about the six-year-old's grisly death, allegedly at the hands of another child, was released by police.

At a news conference in Regina, Sgt. Larry Brost, acting officer in charge of an RCMP major-crimes unit, confirmed that if the suspect had not been under the age of 12 — the age needed to face the legal system under the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act — he would have been charged with murder in the tragedy at a Saskatchewan First Nation.

"There is no other person at this point in time in the investigation that could be responsible, other than this child," Brost told reporters at RCMP divisional headquarters.

The boy — whose age has not been made public due to privacy legislation — is in the custody of the Ministry of Social Services and is being held at an out-of-home facility equipped with 24-hour supervision.

He is deemed "in need of protection," according to Social Services, while medical and other professionals determine the kind of treatment and supervision he will require.

Lee died on Aug. 21 at southeast Saskatchewan's Kahkewistahaw First Nation from head trauma caused by a weapon — not a gun or knife, police confirmed, but a weapon "of opportunity."

Lee had last been seen walking with the other boy after he went missing from a community centre, where his caregiver was playing bingo.

Lee, whose funeral was held on Friday, was a ward of a foster home just outside the reserve near Broadview.

The two boys did not know each other.

SIU probe. Elderly woman falls, fractures hip after being Tasered by police

Ontario's police watchdog is investigating an incident in which they say an 80-year-old woman fell and suffered a fractured hip after she was struck by police with a Taser.

Special Investigations Unit spokeswoman Monica Hudon said three Peel Region officers approached the woman around 3:30 a.m. last Wednesday as she was walking along a road in Mississauga.

Hudon said officers spoke with the woman until "at some point" an officer fired his Taser.

Hudon said the elderly woman fell to the ground and was rushed to Credit Valley Hospital for treatment.

The incident occurred one day after the province announced it would permit all front-line police officers to carry stun guns.

The use of force by police in Ontario has come under scrutiny after Sammy Yatim, 18, was shot multiple times and Tasered by police during a confrontation on an empty streetcar.

Videos of the incident prompted hundreds of people to take to the streets.

Another high-profile case that brought the police's use of Tasers under public scrutiny was the 2007 death of a Polish immigrant at Vancouver's airport.

Robert Dziekanski died after being stunned with a Taser by RCMP officers. A public inquiry found that the officers were not justified in using the Taser.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police arsenal

Many police forces, including the Ontario Provincial Police and Toronto Police Services, have said they plan to train and equip their officers with stun guns, in addition to the sidearm, extendable baton and pepper spray that they currently carry.

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Top U.S. Republican supports Syrian strike

Congress returns next week. President's push to gain congressional approval gains steam as Speaker John Boehner signals his support

CODEPINK co-founder Medea Benjamin is removed from the hearing room on Capitol Hill in Washington on Tuesday during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee meeting on military intervention in Syria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama gained ground Tuesday with his drive for congressional backing of a military strike against Syria, winning critical support from the top Republican in Washington. Key Senate Democrats and Republicans agreed to back legislation ruling out the use of U.S. ground troops in any military response to a suspected chemical weapons attack.

The Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, said taking action is something "the United States as a country needs to do."

Boehner emerged from a meeting at the White House and said the United States has "enemies around the world that need to understand that we're not going to tolerate this type of behaviour."

Obama on Saturday unexpectedly stepped back from ordering a military strike under his own authority and announced Saturday he would seek congressional approval.

The president urged Congress to hold a prompt vote once it returns from holiday next week.

He also tried to assure the public that involvement in Syria will be a "limited, proportional step."

"This is not Iraq, and this is not Afghanistan," Obama said.

He met with top lawmakers hours before he was to leave on a three-day trip, with a visit to Sweden and a G20 summit in Russia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ariel Castro. Man who held 3 women captive for a decade hangs himself

Ohio corrections officials say Ariel Castro, who held three women captive in his home for nearly a decade, has committed suicide at a state prison facility.

Spokeswoman JoEllen Smith says 53-year-old Castro was found hanging in his cell around 9:20 p.m. Tuesday at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient, Ohio. Prison medical staff performed CPR before Castro was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The three women disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004, when they were 14, 16 and 20 years old. They escaped May 6, when one of the women broke part of a door and yelled to neighbours for help. Castro was arrested that evening.

Castro was sentenced Aug. 1 to life in prison plus 1,000 years on his guilty plea to 937 counts including kidnapping and rape. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ariel Castro, seen here during his sentencing last month, was found dead in his cell on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Microsoft steps up mobile push with Nokia acquisition

Helsinki. Handset deal is an attempt to narrow gap with Apple, Google

Microsoft Corp. is buying Nokia Corp.'s lineup of smartphones and a portfolio of patents and services in an effort to strengthen its fight with Apple and Google, and capture a slice of the lucrative mobile computing market.

The $7.2-billion US deal marks a major step in the company's push to transform itself from a software maker focused on desktop and laptop computers into a more versatile and nimble company that delivers services on any kind of Internet-connected gadget.

Microsoft has been racing to catch up with customers who are increasingly pursuing their digital lives on smartphones and tablet computers. It's now betting it will have a better chance of narrowing the gap with its rivals if it seizes complete control over how Nokia's mobile devices work with its Windows software.

Nokia CEO Stephen Elop, left, and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ballmer admitted Tuesday that the company has to play catch-up with the likes of Apple and Android. "We know we need to accelerate. We're not confused about that," he said. "We need to be a company that provides a family of devices."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Microsoft succession

- Microsoft is also looking for a new leader. Ten days ago, CEO Steve Ballmer said he would step down within the next year.
- Stephen Elop, a Canadian who left Microsoft in 2010 to become Nokia's CEO, will rejoin Microsoft once the acquisition closes. There's speculation he'll be a top candidate to succeed Ballmer.

California

Is Apple about to unveil more iPhone colours?

Apple has sent a colourful invitation for an event next week amid speculation that it may debut new colours for the latest iPhone. The invitation for the Sept. 10 event has a picture of the Apple logo surrounded by multi-coloured polka dots and the sentence: "This should brighten everyone's day." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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WHAT DID YOU DO ON THE WEEKEND?

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Weekend warriors are a dime a dozen.

They're out running marathons, hanging off cliff faces, riding their bicycles up steep switchbacks, or playing hockey at three in the morning because that's the only ice time available.

They whack various little round balls with various sticks and rackets.

They run, jump, throw, slide and stretch.

Unlike real athletes, who vie for world records or record paydays, they do all of this for next to zero recognition — a cheap medal, a certificate, a plastic water bottle, a trophy from Trophies R Us.

They get hurt. Sometimes they die. But unless they die, they don't quit.

Then there's Diana Nyad.

What she did this weekend goes into the Weekend Warrior Hall of Fame. She accomplished what she had already failed to do four times: Become the first person to swim the 177 kilometres from Cuba to the Florida Keys, without a shark cage.

If that last detail doesn't get your attention, how about she spent 53 hours in the water, swallowed so much seawater that she vomited early and often, was stung by jellyfish, but like the Energizer Bunny in a wetsuit, she just kept going until she hit the beach in Florida.

Did I mention that she is 64 years old?

Why did she do it?

How about she "wants to send a message of peace, love, friendship and happiness … between the people of the United States and Cuba."

Other people might send an email.

Diana Nyad has had this "Xtreme Dream" since 1978 when she tried and failed the first time.

At the time, she was already a long-distance swimmer who set the world record for swimming around the Island of Manhattan in under eight hours.

Then, life got in the way, but she never forgot her unfinished business and after a 30-year layoff, she tried again in 2011. And again. And again. And again in 2012.

Frankly, I thought she was done the last time. But never count a weekend warrior out. They can't help themselves.

A cynic (that's usually me) could say she's a motivational speaker and author (her books have titles like The Boss of Me) and needs fresh material to remain in demand on the lecture circuit — after all she charges up to $40K a pop.

But really? What would you rather do: Face sharks, jellyfish, choking brine, storms, waves, nausea and fatigue? Or find another topic?

Or you could do what most 64-year-olds do. Think about retiring.

But I suspect Diana Nyad is not done yet.

Not as long as there's still another weekend.

ZOOM

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COURTESY REX FEATURES

Flight of the five-year-old

He looks confident but record-breaker He Yide, 5, must have been a little nervous as he became the youngest person to fly an aircraft.

The mini pilot completed a 35-minute flight over Beijing, with supervision — but no help — from a coach. Yide has strict training, which included a controversial run in snow last year. **METRO**

Dad of the year

"When the baby eagle is old enough, the mother eagle would harshly push it down the cliff. I don't agree with the education of most parents. They are too protective and caring, which makes their kid lazy."

He Yide's father He Liesheng

He Yide's diary

- **Early bird.** Awake at 4:30 a.m. each day for flight training before school.
- **Conquering the seas.** The boy has also sailed a yacht in an international competition.
- **Ain't no mountain high enough.** Yide recently climbed Mount Fuji during a storm.

Worth every penny

$4,900

The cost in U.S. dollars of He Yide's flight training. It has not been wasted though — the child's next flight is already planned for Hoh Xil, an isolated region in the northwestern part of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Was it YellowTiger62 or GoldenCat63? Keeping passwords straight may be easy enough when you've got a one-fits-all setup, but once you go beyond that, keeping your deepest, darkest in the dark gets a bit more complicated. Or at least it used to be complicated.

Nymi:
More than just a password keeper, this heart-rate based authentication bracelet, pictured, not only keeps your passwords straight, it also acts as a one-key-fits-all device. Hello key-free living! Pre-order for $79.

LastPass:
One of the dinosaurs of the password managers, LastPass has been around since 2008 and made a name for itself as the go-to password keeper. Works on all operating systems, free for desktop, $12/year for mobile.

KeePass:
Free, open source password manager keeps your passwords safely encrypted in a secure database.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Hackers are now tampering with cars' computer systems. What should be done to counter the problem?

@Canucklehead_ca: Seems simple enough: make all cars password protected! (All passwords must contain a capital letter, a number, two symbols …)

@Brendanger: Walk or take public transit.

@EastVanPrint: Encryption and closed networking

@almajwilson70: find them real jobs obviously they have nothing constructive to do

@Simpson957: Car companies should give nerds fancy cars so we can work out a good defense against the hackers. Me first.

@OnlyFakie: if cars are generally computers now, why don't they follow computers and have the same security they do?

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE 2

Going from the sexiest ugly man to Richard B. Riddick

Vin Diesel. Few know that the Fast and Furious and Pitch Black star has been acting since age seven and has a long list of accomplishments

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Vin Diesel returns to the Pitch Black series in his role as Richard B. Riddick. CONTRIBUTED

Vin Diesel has been acting since age seven and played many characters on screen, but he is best known by two alter egos.

We'll have to wait until next year to see him behind the wheel as Dominic Toretto in the new Fast and Furious movie, but this weekend he returns to theatres as Richard B. Riddick, anti-hero of the Pitch Black series of films and video games.

In Riddick, his fourth outing as the mercenary-turned-enforcer, he has been double-crossed and left for dead.

His battles with predatory aliens has honed his skills, his thirst for revenge and his desire to return to his home planet of Furya.

Diesel loves playing Riddick. "I know it sounds corny but I feel like I learn about myself when I play that character," he says.

But he's also created some other memorable characters.

Critics and audiences first took notice of Diesel as Private Caparzo in Saving Private Ryan. He says winning the role was "like one of those Hollywood fairy tales that you never believed."

Director Steven Spielberg saw Multi-Facial, an über low budget short film directed by and starring Diesel.

The ET director was so taken with the young actor's performance that he had a role specially written for him. The result was an effective performance that mixed physicality with poignancy.

Diesel lent his distinctive gravelly voice to the title character in the animated film The Iron Giant.

Directed by Brad Bird, the story of a lonely boy who discovers a 50-foot, metal-eating robot who fell from space, failed at the box office but has a 97 per cent Rotten Tomatoes rating.

His searing portrayal of streetwise stockbroker Chris Varick in the 2000 stockbroker drama Boiler Room garnered him considerable critical praise.

Roger Ebert wrote, "Diesel is interesting. Something will come of him," and New York Times critic A.O. Scott said the actor, "may be the sexiest ugly man in movies since Anthony Quinn."

Knockaround Guys is a coming-of-age story with a gangland twist.

The four sons (Vin Diesel, Seth Green, Barry Pepper, and Andrew Davoli) of Brooklyn mobsters band together to reclaim a quarter of a million dollars lost in a small town run by a crooked sheriff (Tom Noonan).

Diesel oozes charisma in a so-so film, tossing off tough guy lines like, "That's about the only thing you can count on in this life, there's nobody that wouldn't hurt you ... if it helped them," with ease.

More on Riddick

Katee Sackhoff. CONTRIBUTED

Being the only girl in the room on Riddick

In Riddick, Katee Sackhoff co-stars alongside Vin Diesel as Dahl, the only female member of a team of mercenaries — but also one of its toughest.

Riddick is very funny, surprisingly.
My best friend is terrified of scary movies. She's going to the premiere and she was like, "How scared am I going to be?" And I was like, "Sweetie, it's not scary."

Do you worry about doing what you're already known for when looking for parts?
I think people spend too much time trying to understand this business when you can't understand it. I don't think there's any real right way or wrong way to do this. Truthfully, I feel blessed that people want me to do it at all, and if that's science fiction and action, I'd rather do that than so many other genres. So I'm good. NED EHRBAR/MWN

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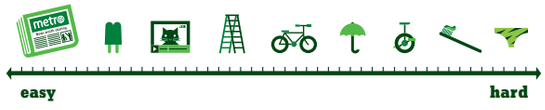

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Bret Easton Ellis. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

James Deen as Mr. Grey? Not enough alcohol in the world

While the casting announcements are official for 50 Shades of Grey — with Dakota Johnson and Pacific Rim star Charlie Hunnam taking the much-debated lead roles — apparently not everyone is in agreement behind the scenes of the hot literary adaptation.

After the news was announced, author Bret Easton Ellis took to Twitter.

"Talked to (author) E.L. James at a party over the summer. Her first choice for Christian was Rob Pattinson," he posted.

"When E.L. James asked me who I thought should be Christian I said, '(Porn star) James Deen, of course,' and then she shoved me. We were both very wasted."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

American Idol rounds out its panel with latest addition

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

After months of speculation, it was announced that handsome Southern crooner Harry Connick Jr. and former American Idol judge Jennifer Lopez are officially joining American Idol 13.

The two join Keith Urban on the judge's panel; stalwart Randy Jackson will be back as an "in-house" mentor.

And, what would Idol be without Ryan Seacrest? The personality, of course, will be back as host.

"I have always been a huge fan of American Idol and really enjoyed my time as a mentor on the show," said Connick in a press release.

"And I am honoured that they've asked me to be a judge this season. As an entertainer, I am truly excited to bring my perspective to American Idol and to help emerging performers find their way."

For her take on the announcement, Lopez simply tweeted, "#IDOL-2014TheRemix."

Hopefully the addition of Connick and Lopez will help this new season's ratings. This past season was American Idol's worst rated since the show began airing in 2002.

The sun is shining and the weather is sweet in Jamaica

Island time. Beyond the beautiful beaches are great restaurants and exciting activities

JIM BYERS
@jimbyerstravel
jimbyerstravel.com

Rum bars filled with colourful locals, glorious beaches, waterfalls you can climb and romantic river rafts. Yep, Jamaica has a lot to offer.

Of course, there are the swanky resorts and infamous spots such as Hedonism, where just about anything goes, including a lot of bathing suits. And don't forget the jerk shacks that waft heavenly spices out over the island and the reggae music.

Diving into the perfect water near Rick's Café. Just watch your Red Stripe intake before you jump. PHOTOS JIM BYERS/METRO

Sleeping

Negril has awesome sunsets and an endless beach flanked by resorts such as Beaches, Sandals and the aforementioned Hedonism. Further north and east are the impeccable grounds of Half Moon, a RockResort, equipped with a fun and not too tricked-up golf course, a sweeping beach and a who's who list of attendees, including Queen Elizabeth and Paul Simon. My personal favourite resort for a taste of local culture is Jakes at Treasure Beach, a spot on the south side of the island with pseudo-Moroccan design and glorious detached villas in bright ochre and pale blue.

Dining

Half Moon features the romantic Sugar Mill restaurant, with a gorgeous patio lit up by overhead lights hanging from gnarly trees. Try the snapper in a coconut-saffron sauce or jerk chicken spring rolls. A favourite for casual jerk chicken is Scotchie's near the Montego Bay Airport, where you can fill your belly for less than $10. In the Montego Bay Freeport zone is the fabulous House Boat restaurant, reached by a three-second ferry/raft. Gaze out on the bay and the lights in the hills and dine on spicy shrimp in a scotch bonnet beurre blanc sauce or a Queen Conch fritter. Jakes at Treasure Beach has a marvelous kitchen. Next door on the beach is Jack Spratts, which serves a fabulous jerk sausage pizza.

The sunsets in Negril are some of the best you'll find anywhere.

Doing

At Half Moon you can take a horseback ride and swim with the animals, who love nothing more on a hot day than submersing themselves in the cool ocean water. Dunn's River Falls is famous as a playground where you can clamber up large rocks and dunk yourself in the cool water running down from the mountains. Prefer to let someone else do the work? Try a romantic rafting trip on the peaceful Martha Brae River near Falmouth, where a local will guide you along on a wide bamboo raft under a jungle canopy.

Drinking

If you must, you can down Jell-O shots or any number of sickly sweet things at Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville on the Hip Strip in Montego Bay, which is jammed to the rafters with cruise ship day-trippers and has a cool waterslide that drops you a couple stories into the bay. You don't want to miss Rick's Café, south of Negril. The water is the most beautiful shade of aquamarine imaginable, and local kids will do handstands and crazy dives off huge cliffs for a couple of bucks. You can try a belly-flop of your own from several spots, too. Take a boat ride from the south shore to the ramshackle Pelican Bar, which sits in a few feet of warm water a half mile or so off the coast and looks to be mostly made up of driftwood, with a thatched roof. Very memorable.

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It's more than just tacos and tequila: Mexico City's food scene on the rise

Eat your heart out. This capital city to the south offers foodies restaurants with French influence and a little Mexican history

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
Metro World News in New York

When one thinks of Mexican food, a number of Americanized staples almost certainly come to mind. Tacos, enchiladas, burritos and, of course, tequila — these are items many first-time visitors to Mexico City would likely expect to find on most menus. And, yes, the city's eateries offer their fair share of traditional Mexican cuisine.

What first-time visitors to the increasingly more gentrified city might be surprised to learn, however, is that Mexico City's culinary scene is as diverse and dynamic as the city itself. Mexico City seems poised on a threshold, with roots in traditions both old and new.

The topic of tequila, for example, is sure to spark lively discussion — and strong opinions — among natives. Old-timers are faithful to the spirit, quick to expound upon its many virtues and to eschew its trendier cousin mezcal (a similar liquor distilled from the maguey plant, a form of agave), which the city's younger and hipper denizens have become enamored with of late. Entire bars dedicated to the spirit, which is similar to tequila but with a smokier flavour, have sprung up in chichi areas of the city — ask an older Mexican gentleman, however, and he'll tell you it's just a passing fad.

The city's dining scene is similarly marked by old and new world flavours. Travellers who have dined in culinary meccas like New York and Paris will feel at home in swiftly on-the-rise neighbourhoods like Roma (Mexico City's answer to Williamsburg) where well-heeled, well-dressed young urbanites fill the sidewalk-side tables of hip restaurants and browse artsy (and often pricey) boutiques that would be right at home in one of the aforementioned metropolises.

For foodies travelling to Mexico City, we've rounded up a few must-hit restaurants at which both the food and the ambience capture the unique cultural balance that defines this city in flux.

Maximo Bistrot Local

Be prepared to wait at this bustling restaurant in the neighbourhood of Centro. Locals and tourists alike flock to the unassuming eatery (its homey, minimalist design belies its sophisticated fare) where the eclectic, French-leaning menu is marked by gastronomic flourishes that will leave diners pleasantly surprised. Eduardo García, the young chef and owner, is a firm believer in sustainability — he employs his own divers to procure the fresh seafood that graces the often-changing menu and is an avid proponent of the farm-to-table movement that is on the rise in some of the best new restaurants in the States.

C'est la Vie

More often than not, hotel restaurants are forgettable, if functional, providing travellers too exhausted to venture out into the city in search of more exciting cuisine with a quick and easy meal before bed. Not so at this sleek restaurant located on the ground floor of Le Meridien hotel. Decidedly modern dishes and surprising flavour profiles mark the menu — a creamy, yet surprisingly light asparagus soup poured tableside from a ceramic carafe and a succulent duck breast cooked to perfection with glistening crispy skin are two standouts. Bonus points for an extensive wine list along with a variety of traditional Mexican beer options.

La Ópera Bar

For more casual dining, try this eatery in the heart of the city's centre. Dark wood panelling, red-velvet upholstered chairs and low lighting add to La Ópera's nostalgic, old-school vibe. Locals enjoy long repasts at the no-frills restaurant where, famously, the Mexican Revolutionary General Pancho Villa once fired a bullet above his head and into the ceiling, in a fit of rage over a table of fellow diners he felt were behaving too rowdily. That bullet hole is still there, adding to the sense of history and intrigue in the eatery. The menu, likewise, offers more traditional Mexican fare (try the mole) though more sophisticated epicurean delights share the large menu — among them a heaping dish of tiny sea snails in a savoury Chipotle sauce.

More eats

- **Restaurante Tamayo.** Another restaurant on the forefront of Mexico City's culinary revolution, this small café-like restaurant is tucked away in the shade of twisty trees just across the fairway from the lush greenery of Chapultepec Park (one of the largest city parks in the Western hemisphere, more expansive by far than New York's Central Park, where residents gather to escape the bustle of the urban city centre). Inside, the menu is elegantly written in chalk on a blackboard above the restaurant's take-out bar and simple wild flowers in mason jars adorn the tables. The locally-supplied menu changes often and offers some surprising options (a fresh Caprese salad, for example) alongside more traditional Mexican standbys.

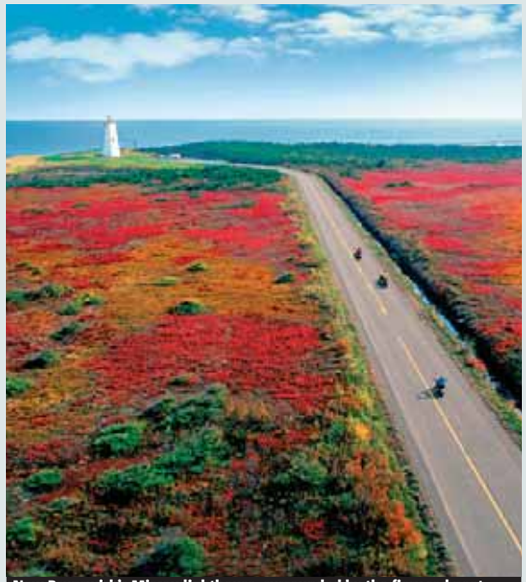
Mexico City is straddling both old and new traditions. ISTOCK

Roma is Mexico City's equivalent of Williamsburg. METRO WORLD NEWS

Autumn travel

Put a little colour in your trip this fall

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca



New Brunswick's Miscou lighthouse, surrounded by the fiery red peat bogs. TOURISM NEW BRUNSWICK

If you are a leaf peeper the next six weeks provide numerous opportunities for a fabulous fall getaway. The proliferation of maples and birches in Eastern Canada and their vibrant and varied fall colours make a trip in this part of the country particularly appealing.

In Ontario, the Agawa Canyon Tour Train takes riders through an explosion of colour.

The rail cars were fully renovated last year with a camera at the front of the car that broadcasts to flat screens in the passenger cars so you can get a "conductor's view" of the journey. A GPS triggered commentary announces points of interest and shares the history of the region. There are packages available that include train tickets, two night accommodations and options for meals. Book now, as availability is already limited.

If you are heading elsewhere in the province check out ontariotravel.net for live updates on the fall colour report.

Download the app when you head out on your journey and browse the site for a wide variety of autumn packages including a Mennonite Horse and Buggy package.

Nova Scotia's Cabot Trail is a spectacular drive year-round, but at this time of year, it's at its best. Plan a trip in mid-October and catch part of the 16th Celtic Colours Festival.

Running from Oct. 11 through 19 this annual event features community dinners, shows and 46 concerts with local Celtic and international musicians.

Throughout Quebec from the Eastern Townships to Charlevoix, many of the province's ski resorts will be turned into fall festival headquarters with a variety of hillside leaf peeping opportunities coupled with barbecues, live music and numerous family activities. Don't forget the abundance of harvest and wine festivals at this time of year.

In British Columbia they are celebrating the 33rd annual Fall Okanagan Wine Festival.

More than 165 wine, food, educational and arts-focused events are set to fill the roster from Oct. 4 through to Oct. 14. Crowds will gather to pair cheese with favoured pours, sample menus courtesy of young Okanagan chefs and challenge their taste buds during a host of blind taste tests.

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Didn't think it was possible to do fancy on a budget, huh?

NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

This meal may come in slightly over $5 if you don't get your ingredients on sale and you do use the wine.

But it is absolutely worth every penny.

This dish, which features high nutrient spinach in a convenient frozen form paired with high iron chicken thighs and a tasty balsamic vinegar and blue cheese, is yours in under 10 minutes.

Baked Chicken with Spinach and Blue Cheese

For a variation on this recipe, which serves two, try stuffing the chicken with spinach. ISTOCK

Ingredients

- 1 pkg (450 g) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained ($1.29)
- 1 lb skinless chicken thighs ($4.30)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced ($0.10)
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar ($0.10)
- 1/4 cup red wine (optional) ($0.60)
- 2 tsp dried oregano ($0.03)
- 2-4 oz blue cheese, crumbled ($0.60)

Total: $7.02
Per person: $3.51

1. Microwave spinach just to thaw and let drain in a colander in the sink until ready to assemble.

2. Break up spinach into large, low casserole dish. Nestle chicken pieces into spinach. Sprinkle with garlic, vinegar, wine, oregano, salt and pepper. Break up blue cheese to spread on top.

3. Cover with foil and place into 350 F oven to bake for approximately 45 minutes or until heated through. Meat internal temperature should read 165 F.

Eat cheap (and healthy)

The past two Wednesdays, Metro's Theresa Albert has served up easy to make and healthy recipes that are perfect for families or starving students. If you missed them, check out the recipes at metronews.ca/food. And don't forget to look for the final two recipes in the series on Sept. 11 and 18.

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The faux-pas of a professional feed

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JESSICA CRUZ
TalentEgg.ca

Don't hide behind your hashtags. If you want an employer to pick you out of the crowd, make your account public. ISTOCK

Ah, the wonderful world of Twitter. A land where users post their most random thoughts, check out the latest sports updates and watch in awe as celebrities make gross grammatical errors.

But if that's all they're doing, visitors to Twitter may be missing out. It turns out that the social network can be a great asset to the job hunt, provided the job-searcher avoids a few common mistakes along the way.

Don't keep your settings private
It's OK to keep personal accounts on Twitter for friends. But if you're using Twitter for job searches and networking, your account needs to be accessible. How can anyone respond to your tweets? You might connect with a recruiter who is at the same conference as you, get instant updates on that job you've been waiting for or even win a contest.

Transparency is key when utilizing social media for developing your personal brand, job hunting or networking. It also opens doors for other people to contact you about opportunities and learn more about you.

Don't mix too much of your personal life with your professional life
Remember the purpose of the account. Keep in mind that an online account means 24/7 access for potential employers. The second something goes up, someone will see it.

Post on different channels with your own discretion, or don't post it at all. An open account should not mean unlimited access to your life.

Don't exaggerate your job title
Keep your tagline current, direct, and about your profession. Use a decent photo and include a helpful link and customized background. It's good to show a bit of personality, but try to keep the content relevant to your industry and how you want others to see you.

Don't be too controversial
Avoid topics like politics or starting arguments with other users.

Don't skew an employer's impression of your values.

Separating business and personal opinions helps you keep your personal life from affecting your professional life.

Don't forget to check your interactions
Stay updated with who is interacting with you.

Check your mentions for retweets, replies and followers. Regularly check your direct messages (DM) to see if someone contacted you.

Take a glance at profiles who retweeted, DM or mentioned you. See what they tweet about; perhaps you'll find a common interest or a potential employer.

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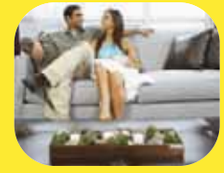

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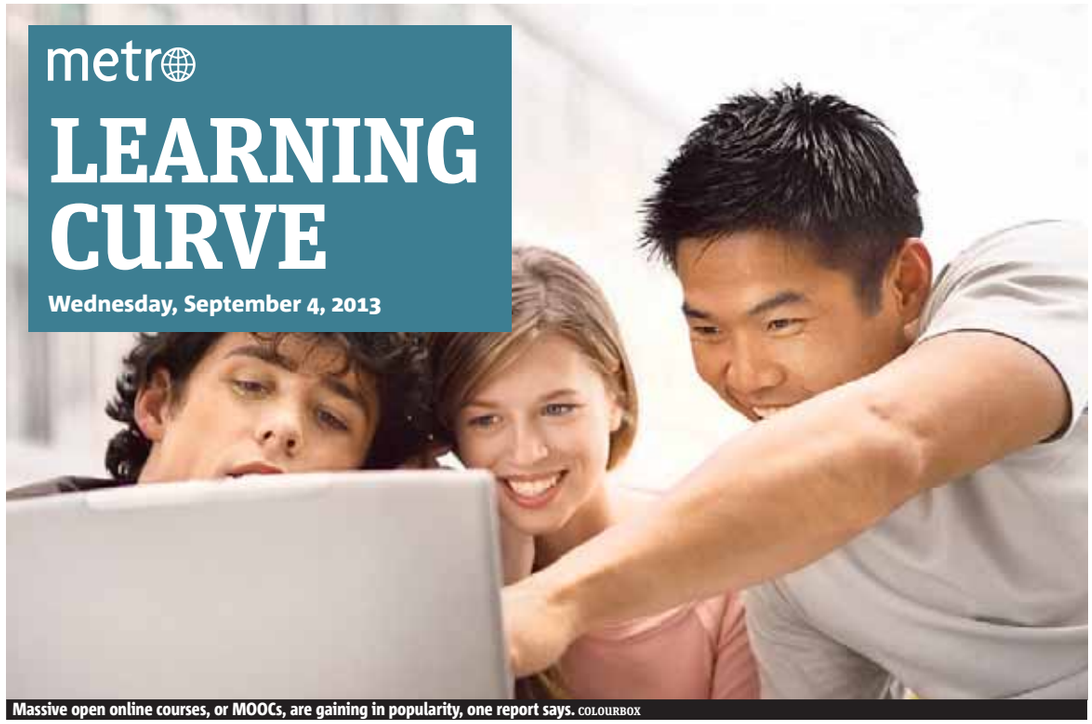

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LEARNING CURVE
Wednesday, September 4, 2013

Massive open online courses, or MOOCs, are gaining in popularity, one report says. COLOURBOX

Interactive participation

MARIE POWELL
For Metro

One of the top two trends across the country, according to the NMC Horizon Report on higher education, is the increase in "massive open online courses" or MOOCs.

Nearly 10 per cent of U.S. universities have a MOOC in the planning stages, although only about three per cent have one now, according to the 2012 Survey of Online Learning known as the Sloan survey. A handful of Canadian universities, including the University of Alberta, are listed as offering MOOCs.

Alec Couros, University of Regina professor of educational technology and media, has been running MOOC-style courses such as education curriculum and instruction since 2007.

Couros founded a non-credit course at etmooc.org as a sabbatical project last winter, and pulled in about 20 collaborators and 2,000 students from 75 countries.

"That number represents more people than I've taught in my 14-year career as an undergraduate professor or in my graduate program," Couros says.

Discussion topics ranged from digital storytelling to digital citizenship, using such tools as blogs, Twitter, mailing lists, and digital blackboards.

The term MOOC is Canadian, too, Couros says, coined by Dave Cormier of the University of Prince Edward Island, but the concept has recently become more lecture-based.

Online learning is not without controversy. For example, one study shows students still enjoy peer support, and want interaction with instructors in courses they deem "harder," such as math or foreign languages. Often, students don't finish a MOOC course, and it can be difficult to evaluate student progress.

Couros says students often don't intend to finish the MOOC. People register to see the content or the way it's taught, rather than in the traditional "old mode" of learning.

Learning analytics, another coming trend identified by the NMC, can give the instructor extra perspective in evaluating student progress, Couros adds.

In terms of brand reputation, he adds, his credit course has attracted paying students from across Canada who wouldn't normally take a University of Regina course.

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Simon Fraser student leads team to gold

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN
For Metro

A group of Surrey high school students recently returned home after winning the top prize at the annual International Space Settlement Design Competition (ISSDC) at NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas.

The Princess Margaret Secondary School students were part of a team called Grumbo Aerospace, which was led by Simon Fraser University (SFU) computer engineering student Sumit (Bhupinder) Rathore.

"This year I was fortunate enough to have some of the old members returning from my last year's team," Rathore said in a press release. "They were very familiar with the stress and unexpected challenges of the final. They were more mentally prepared for the time management required to make on-the-fly creative decisions about the final settlement's design."

Students from 20 schools from all over the world were invited by the ISSDC to compete in the final. Grumbo Aerospace's victory marked the first time a team consisting of Canadian students won the competition.

According to the judges, it was Grumbo Aerospace's attention to detail and creativity that was the difference. Team members received a trophy, gold medals and a coveted list of resumé references consisting of NASA astronauts and aerospace engineers.

Ten Surrey high school students, under the tutelage of SFU student Sumit Rathore, back row, third from right, are the first Canadians to win gold at the annual International Space Settlement Design Competition. CONTRIBUTED

Inaugural UNBC MBA program launched

The inaugural class of a University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) instructed program took place at Langara College in Vancouver recently. The class stemmed from a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Langara and UNBC that was signed in January.

The purpose of the MOU was to allow spaces in the UNBC program to be opened at Langara's Vancouver campus, and, over the next 21 months, the program's first group of students will earn its degrees at Langara under the instruction of UNBC faculty.

"We're ecstatic to launch our inaugural Vancouver cohort of the UNBC MBA program here at Langara College," program director Dr. Raymond Cox said in a media release. "We are looking forward to the students who are taking the program this year completing their studies successfully, and to the cohorts that will come in the future."

The program covers a broad spectrum of topics and issues comprising a master of business administration degree, while paying particular attention to the political, social, and economic issues of the North in Canada, as well as in the greater global context.

"I'm really looking forward to this challenge, and to learning from the UNBC MBA experience," student Phuoi-Linh To said.

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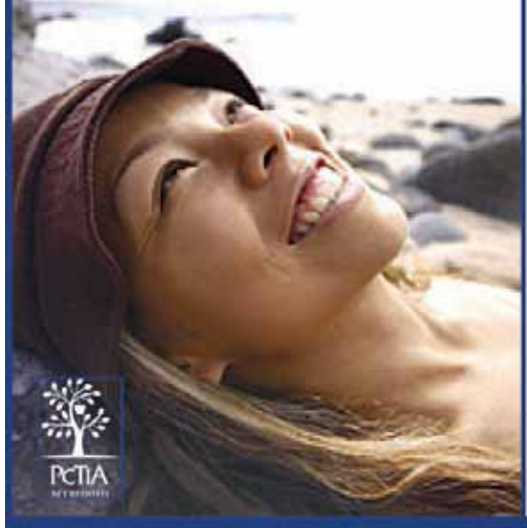

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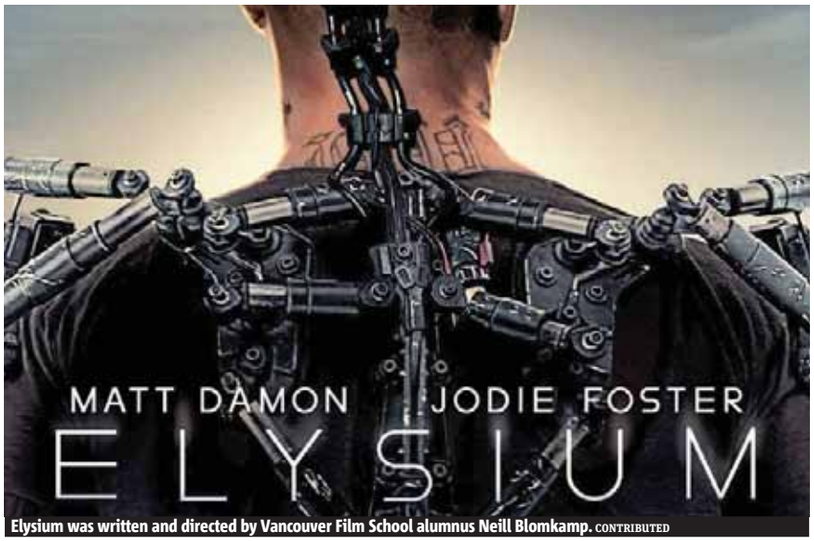

Elysium was written and directed by Vancouver Film School alumnus Neill Blomkamp. CONTRIBUTED

Elysium written and directed by VFS grad

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN
For Metro

The major motion picture Elysium hit theatres Aug. 9, and while it was one of the most anticipated sci-fi movies of the summer, its release meant much more to Vancouver Film School (VFS).

The movie was written and directed by VFS alumnus Neill Blomkamp, who also wrote and directed the action/adventure District 9, which was released in 2009. Blomkamp wasn't the only VFS grad to contribute to Elysium, however. More than 76 of the school's alumni worked on the production of the film.

"You would be hard-pressed these days to find a major movie release that does not have a VFS connection," Marty Hasselbach, managing director at Vancouver Film School, said in a media release. "However, to see this number of grads on one of the biggest movie releases of the year is a momentous achievement."

For more, visit vfs.edu.

UBC announces inaugural Allard Prize finalists

The finalists for the inaugural Allard Prize for International Integrity were recently announced by the University of British Columbia (UBC) faculty of law.

The $100,000 award was established by UBC law alumnus Peter A. Allard, QC, and is one of the largest awards in the world recognizing efforts to combat corruption and promote human rights.

The finalists are as follows:

• Global Witness — Based in London, England, and Washington, D.C., Global Witness has initiated trailblazing campaigns against natural resource-related conflict and corruption, and associated environmental and human rights abuses.

• Anna Hazare — One of India's most influential and renowned social and political activists, Hazare has led popular movements to enhance government transparency and investigate and prosecute official corruption.

• Dr. Sima Samar — Samar is an internationally celebrated advocate for human and women's rights. Samar has worked to raise global awareness about the detrimental impact of corruption on the promotion and protection of Afghan human and women's rights.

The winner will be announced Sept. 25.

Short films featured at Langara college

The Langara College film arts department recently enjoyed another successful evening featuring work by the program's graduates. With a sold-out crowd of more than 300 people in attendance, the program held two screenings of Unlock the Vault.

Featured were seven short films that spanned different genres, including a mix of drama, action, sci-fi, and comedy. The evening was also used to celebrate the accomplishments of its 2013 graduating class.

"Every year, we raise the bar. I'm very proud of the students this year," film arts program co-ordinator Gary Fisher said in a media release.

The following graduates received awards:

Alecia Casselman and Ryan Cheong (achievement award for acting), R.T. Abram (achievement award for writing), Olivia Todd (achievement award for directing), Ryan Cheong (special effects award), Katlin Longwright (Janin award), while the audience's favourite film was Waves.

BCIT and VCC sign partnership

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed between the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and Vancouver Community College (VCC).

The agreement will afford students and faculty at both institutions more opportunities to enter into research collaborations and exchanges, and will provide a platform for innovation, specifically in the fields of science and technology.

Karen Belfer, dean, VCC centre for teaching, innovation and applied research, explained the importance of the MOU in a press release.

"Over the last few years, VCC has been exploring ways to expand applied research opportunities, and sees this agreement with BCIT as an important step towards greater research collaboration. Linking VCC's applied research projects with research groups at BCIT will create greater information exchange and enhanced links between theory and practice, resulting in a more robust educational experience for our students."

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Kwantlen Polytechnic University showcased its interior design work from the past several years last fall during a Richmond campus visit by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. CONTRIBUTED

KPU. Interior design program is one-of-a-kind

Kwantlen Polytechnic University's (KPU) interior design program was recently re-accredited for another six years by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). The CIDA is an independent agency that has developed standards to recognize quality in Canadian and American higher education.

The KPU program was the only one of its kind in British Columbia to have successfully passed the CIDA evaluation process, which includes a comprehensive self-study, as well as agency, peer and accreditation commission reviews. Six other institutions in the country have attained certification.

"The CIDA re-accreditation confirms that the rumour is true — KPU offers one of the best interior design programs in Canada," fourth-year interior design student Taryn Chisholm said in a press release. "It takes a bold, committed and confident department to voluntarily put their curriculum up for review by an independent panel. Given the quantity of previous student work analyzed by CIDA, this re-accreditation shows that KPU effectively translates academic theory into applied design skills."

For more on KPU's interior design program, visit kpu.ca/design/interior_design.

U.S. psychologists to visit JIBC for workshop

The Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) will welcome a pair of American psychologists to its campus Sept. 10-11. Dr. Stephen White and Dr. Reid Meloy will share their expertise on assessing targeted violence on college and university campuses.

JIBC's school of public safety and security, sheriff academy will host the workshop, which is designed to aid those employed in law enforcement, human resources, mental health, campus security, social services, health care, post-secondary education, and the legal system.

The two-day event will cover topics including stalking, mental illness and violence, domestic violence, bullying and chronically antisocial individuals. Threats in the form of extreme ideology (such as self-radicalization) and psychopathology will also be covered.

Those in attendance will learn about WAVR-21 (workplace assessment of violence risk), a tool created by White and Meloy. The top-five red flag indicators as part of the WAVR-21 threat assessment are as follows:

Is there a motive for violence?; is the individual preoccupied with violent fantasies?; is there intent to be violent? is their access to weapons or skill with weapons?; and is there any evidence of planning or preparing to be violent?

To find out more, or to register, visit jibc.ca.

DANIEL HENDRIKSEN

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Brighton College's civil infrastructure design technology diploma program gives you the intensive training you will need in design, analysis, and estimating. You will master the management tools and computer-aided design and drafting software commonly used in civil engineering infrastructure — all with a focus on the local conditions.

Led by instructors with at least five years of industry experience, the program includes 28 weeks of in-class study plus a four-week practicum at a small- or medium-sized business in the Lower Mainland.

The next intake for the civil infrastructure design technology program begins Sept. 23, at Brighton College's Burnaby campus. To learn more, call 604-901-5121 or visit brightoncollege.com.

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‘Recharged’ Tvrdon flocks to Wings camp

WHL. Skilled Slovakian spent three seasons with Giants, but had 2012-13 season cut short due to blood clot

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Marek Tvrdon is on his way to the Detroit Red Wings for their annual NHL prospects tournament with a new perspective on his hockey career.

The skilled forward, who spent the last three seasons with the Vancouver Giants, underwent surgery last November to remove a blood clot in his left shoulder, which kept him out of the lineup for the remainder of the season.

Tvrdon, a fourth-round pick of the Red Wings in 2011, was in Vancouver recently for training camp, and scored once in the Giants’ first exhibition game against the Kelowna Rockets on Saturday.

Giants general manager Scott Bonner noticed a more driven Tvrdon when he arrived in Vancouver last month.

“It probably recharged him,” said Bonner.

“Sometimes you have to have something taken away to realize how much you love it.”

According to Bonner, Tvrdon came to camp in his best shape as a Giant, a testament to his dedication to return to the game and carve out a profession.

Tvrdon spent time late last season in the American Hockey League with the Grand Rapids Griffins, affiliate of the Red Wings, in their run to a Calder Cup championship.

He didn’t play but skated with the team.

He’s eligible to play for the Griffins this upcoming season, and it seems unlikely he’ll be back with the Giants as an overage player.

“I think he feels he’s ready to move on. So far, at camp, he looks a notch above our guys,” said Bonner.

Marek Tvrdon of the Vancouver Giants carries the puck up ice against Victoria Royals defenceman Ryan Gagnon during WHL action last season. CAM TUCKER/METRO

CFL. Lions centre Reid still reeling from back injury

Angus Reid’s season — and career — continued to hang in limbo Tuesday.

The veteran B.C. centre will miss his 10th straight game Saturday due to a back injury as the Lions visit the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the second game of a home-and-home series.

Reid, a 36-year-old Richmond native who has yet to play this season, is scheduled to come off the nine-game injured list. But he expects to go back on it, pending a decision from the front office.

“I’m not ready to play right now,” said Reid after limited participation in a practice. “It’ll still take some time. I don’t know how long that’s going to be.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baseball

Canadians’ bats come alive in Game 1 vs. Everett

The Vancouver Canadians are one win away from returning to the Northwest League championship series for a third straight year.

The Canadians, two-time defending Northwest League champs, defeated the Everett AquaSox 5-1 in Game 1 of their best-of-three opening-round playoff series at Nat Bailey Stadium on Tuesday.

The Canadians broke the game open in the bottom of the sixth inning, scoring four runs topped off with a two-run single by Brenden Kalfus.

Game 2 of the series goes Wednesday in Everett. METRO

Lacrosse

Stealth slated to open 2014 season on Jan. 4

The National Lacrosse League on Tuesday released its schedule for the upcoming 2014 season.

The Vancouver Stealth, which will play out of the Langley Events Centre, will open the season on the road against the Colorado Mammoth on Jan. 4, 2014.

The Stealth’s home opener is on Jan. 11 against the Minnesota Swarm. METRO

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The 2014 Infiniti Q50

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Base price: $41,900

2 Cadillac CTS Sedan
Base price: $47,000

Review. This beauty beats the G37 and will get all your senses moving

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

A new name and a slew of techno enhancements are the first clues that Infiniti's Q50 sedan is something special.

But with nearly every member of Nissan's upscale division switching to new alphanumeric identification along with, in most cases, reconfigured sheetmetal, it isn't the only interesting car on Infiniti's plate for 2014. Although it was thought that the Q50 would replace the G37, the sedan version will remain in the United States as an entry model for a couple more seasons. As of press time, it's unclear whether Canada will follow suit.

Since the Q50 and G37 share the same basic dimensions, platform, suspension and powertrain and offer the same all-wheel-drive option, the differences between the two boil down to style and standard and available content. In both categories the Q50 outshines the G37 by a wide margin and should experience little trouble attracting buyers desiring a well-equipped rolling fashion statement to tool around in. Another important point of differentiation is the addition of the Q50 Hybrid that combines a potent mix of fuel economy and performance.

A cabin that elevates tastefulness to a new level also reaffirms the car's luxury-vehicle cred. This is especially in evidence with a dual-cockpit-shaped dashboard with both 17.5- and 20-centimetre touchscreen displays that operate the climate, communications and optional navigation systems.

Going forward, the Q50 employs a 3.7-litre V6 (same as in the G37) that makes 328 horsepower and 269 pound-feet of torque, while the Q50 Hybrid combines a 302-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 with an electric motor rated at 67 horsepower and 214 pound-feet of torque to produce 360 net horsepower.

The Q50 Hybrid's gasoline-electric powertrain is virtually identical to that used in what was previously called the M35h. For 2014, the M35h has been renamed the Q70 Hybrid. Its 50-kilowatt electric motor uses energy stored in a 346-volt lithium-ion battery pack located behind the rear seat. The Hybrid uses the same seven-speed automatic transmission as the regular Q50, as opposed to a less-than-sporting continuously variable unit found in most other hybrids. As well you can specify all-wheel-drive for the Hybrid, which is not available on similarly propelled Lexus or Lincoln models.

Befitting of any luxury sedan, the Q50 arrives properly attired, however the Q50 Premium adds heated front seats, power moonroof and Bose's 14-speaker "Studio on Wheels" audio system. Note that the Q50 Hybrid starts at the Premium trim level.

The Q50S adds metal-trim accents, 19-inch wheels, sport-tuned suspension and brakes and a different front bumper.

The Q50's $39,500 base price ($49,000 for the Hybrid Premium) is competitive with similar North American, German and Japanese marques, but with elevated content and eye appeal that communicates a unique luxury presence regardless of what name appears on the truck lid.

2014 Infiniti Q50

- **Type.** Four-door, rear- /all-wheel-drive mid-size luxury sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 3.7-litre DOHC V6 (328); 3.5-litre DOHC V6 + electric motor (360, net)
- **Transmissions.** Seven-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination)** $39,500

Technology

Your Q50 can also be ordered with any number of option groupings, including a technology package with all the latest electronic safety enhancements such as blind-spot, lane-departure and forward collision warnings.

Fuel Economy

The stowage-space penalty is significant, but apart from the performance gain, the Hybrid rates an impressive 7.0 l/100 km in the city and 5.6 on the highway. The gasoline-only Q50 earns a 10.6/6.7 rating.

Design

As for looks, the Q50 shows off its top form with tasteful curves, swirls, bulges and angles that makes the once-stylish G37 seem downright dated and frumpy by comparison. It's also set apart by a hunkered-down stance that reaffirms its sport-sedan status, in particular with the optional 19-inch wheel-and-tire package.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Your emotions are all over the place and for that reason you are advised not to make any spur-of-the-moment decisions where affairs of the heart are concerned. You could start something you cannot stop.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Why are you focusing on the one little thing that appears to be going wrong in your life when so many bigger things are going right? Whatever the reason you need to get over it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Some kind of setback could throw you out of your stride today, but overall things are very much in your favour at the moment so there is no need to panic. The recipe for happiness is simple: worry less, love more.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You think you know everything about a certain person but what happens over the next 24 hours will show you don't know the half of it. And you'll realize it's a great surprise.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone you are fond of may have done something of which you don't approve but there is no need to make an issue of it. If you love them, you should give them your full support.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Not everyone is as poised and graceful as you so if a friend or relative falls flat on their face today try not to laugh . . . too much. Of course, if they keep falling over there may be something seriously wrong.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Whatever else you do today, don't get involved in other people's domestic situations. Even if you know you can help, your intervention won't be appreciated. Be smart and keep your distance.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something has put you on edge and you don't like it one bit. The best thing to do is to put a name to the problem and then deal with it efficiently and ruthlessly.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What you feel rather than what you think counts for more today. No matter how good a deal may look on paper if your instincts tell you there is something not quite right, you would be wise to turn it down.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Capricorns are not as detached as some people seem to think they are and what happens over the next couple of days will give you a chance to prove it. Be happy. Be warm.

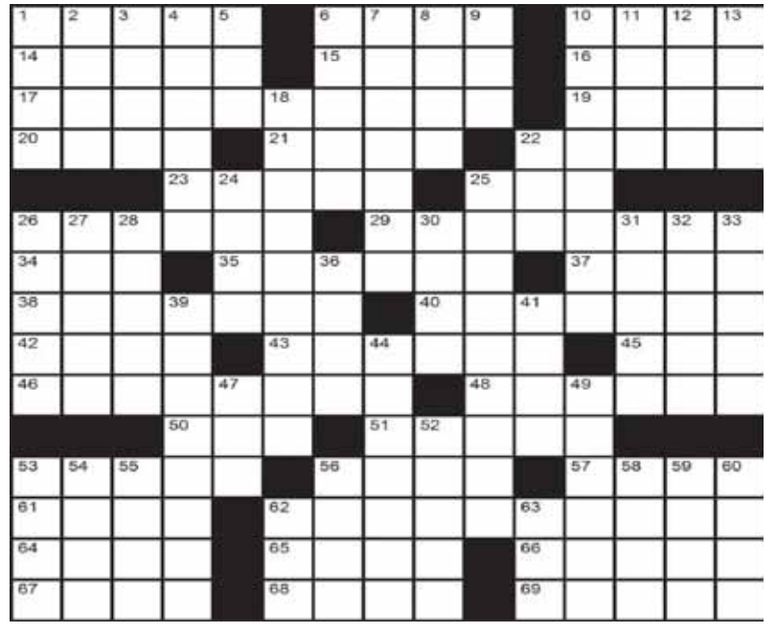
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You give off powerful vibrations that attract people to you and they will get more powerful still over the next 48 hours while the moon is new. Just make sure all these new friends don't cost you lots of money.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A little bit of flattery will go a long way today and will go even further tomorrow when the moon is new in your opposite sign. Just don't say things you don't mean — that's just dishonest. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



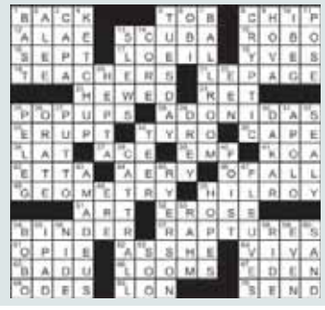
Across

1. "If I __ __ so myself..."
6. Large lot
10. Yarn ball
14. Singer/songwriter Fiona
15. Murmurs
16. Mystical light
17. California cracks: 2 wds.
19. Splashy stuff
20. Drive-__
21. Betting likelihoods
22. Sensible
23. Washing cycle
25. Feel sick
26. Belgium seaport
29. Canadian correspondent on NBC's "Dateline" who is Matthew Perry's stepfather, Keith __
34. Occupational suffix
35. French brandy
37. Robert De __
38. Canadian rowing great/Olympian, Silken __
40. Carol __ (Canadian author born in Oak Park, Illinois)
42. Other: Spanish
43. Rubenesque
45. "Rubber Ball" singer Bobby
46. Kibbles holder, as opposed to water: 2 wds.
48. Facing
50. Gold: Spanish
51. Roberta Flack's "The First Time __ __ Saw Your Face"
53. #49-Down inspired this writer's 'Pooh' books, A.A. __ (b.1882 - d.1956)
56. Secular
57. California wine valley
61. Similar
62. Contents
64. Ms. Ward
65. __ the finish: 2 wds.
66. Abercrombie & __
67. Eleventh letters
68. Queen's "Radio __ __"
69. Ruffle, as '80s hairstyles

Down

1. Electro music's __ Punk
2. Moonfish
3. Prod
4. Magnetism
5. Nevertheless
6. Citric, and others
7. Strongly denounce
8. Egg masses
9. Twisty turn
10. Alberta is named in honour of Queen Victoria's sixth child, Princess Louise __ Alberta (b.1848 - d.1939)
11. Hawaiian feast
12. CNN's "__ Burnett OutFront"
13. Harry Potter's prop
18. #49-Down became popular at England's what?: 2 wds.
22. Gentleman's title
24. King Atahualpa, for one
25. Building designer
26. __ __ Olay
27. "From __ shining...": 2 wds.
28. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
30. Brewer's kiln
31. Region's forest trees
32. Command
33. Rudolph, red-__
36. Chew
39. "Vogue" singer's namesakes
41. Mr. Stravinsky
44. Horrid stopover, __ motel
47. 1990s gold mining scandal, __-X
49. Canada's most famous bear which belonged to WWI soldier Harry Colebourn
52. Panorama
53. Conceal
54. Swedish furniture store
55. Flower type
56. Roman moon goddess
58. Official records
59. Bench press muscles, for short
60. "I think it's __ __." ...said the vet of the newly born puppy
62. 'John Hancock', e.g.
63. Ship's stern

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		4		9		2	
		8	3		1	5		
6								9
		1		7		9		
7								1
		3		5		4		
8								3
		6	7		8	1		
	5		6		2		7	

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	7	9	4	8	3	5	2	1
5	8	2	1	6	9	7	3	4
1	3	4	2	7	5	8	6	9
8	9	5	6	2	1	3	4	7
7	2	3	9	5	4	6	1	8
4	1	6	8	3	7	9	5	2
2	6	7	3	4	8	1	9	5
3	5	1	7	9	2	4	8	6
9	4	8	5	1	6	2	7	3

Today
21°/16°
Variable

Thursday
19°/16°
Rain
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